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? WATCH THIS SPACE ?
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? THINGS ARE HAPPENING HERE ?
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MAILING ADDRESS
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Moravian Station
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018

Joseph W. Burns, Editor

September, 1969

Anyone who does not wish to be on our mailing list, please notify us.
Please send all address changes or corrections to the above address.

The next meeting of the Homophile Movement of the Lehigh Valley will be held at Bowmanstown (Al's trailer, where all other meetings have been held) on Sept. 28 at 2:00 P.M. The purpose of this meeting will be to receive and consider the preliminary report of the By-Laws Committee. It was noted, belatedly, by one member that the last meeting was held without a quorum of the membership. Very important decisions concerning the functions and future of our society are being decided, and all members have paid for the privilege of making these decisions. Make this meeting.

OF THINGS PAST

The August meeting of the group convened in a lovely setting, surrounded by water (if there was water in that ditch), and a sea of mud. Attendees were amazed at the sight of the quaint little foot-bridge (constructed just for our meeting) which greeted their eyes after the pleasant little walk (about a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile hike in 90° heat) necessary to reach the meeting place at that time. All inconveniences have been corrected, however, and accommodations have reached a new high in excellence, as Al continues to refine his surroundings to complement his hospitality.

Present at the meeting were 7 members and 8 members. The By-Laws Committee was announced, followed by the suggestion that an open forum be held after the speaker to receive suggestions on the By-Laws. A motion was made and passed to investigate the possibility of meeting at the Unitarian Church in Bethlehem. Other offers and places to meet were discussed.

A treasury report was given, stating that \$15 of dues had been received, and \$2 in donations. As there were no expenditures, \$97.49

is the present balance.

The meeting was quickly closed to get to our speaker. He was introduced by Ron Seeds, who had also presided at the meeting.

BRIEFER NOTES

---It is known that some women (female homosexuals) will grace our next meeting with their presence. Members and friends are encouraged to solicit the attendance of others to keep these girls company, and introduce women into the membership of the society.

This is the second and last time that refreshments will be offered at society expense. COME AND GET IT!

More inquiries about our group: Lancaster and Reading.

Connecticut recently passed a mutual consent law which will not become effective until 1971. It is feared that opposition to this law will have gathered enough strength by that time to force its repeal or seriously weaken it by amendment.

(continued on page 3)

OUR SPEAKER ON MEDICAL PROBLEMS

Dr. Bob, as our speaker may be known, presented an informal discussion of several medical problems of interest to the homosexual. He said, however, that there are perhaps no such problems which do not apply to the heterosexual as well. Many questions dotted the discussion, indicating the members interest and the need for such discussion.

First he spoke of Venereal Disease, naming both gonorrhea and syphilis. These contagious diseases, he said, can be contracted in the genital area, the anal area, or the mouth by direct contact with the infected areas of a person already carrying these diseases. They cannot, to correct an old wives tale, be contracted from a toilet seat, though he allowed that in very rare and special cases it can be contracted from a drinking glass when both parties have lesions, or open sores in their mouths. These are dangerous diseases because if not detected and cured they can and will be fatal, often hideously so.

Gonorrhea is the more easily identified of the two. Symptoms in men are a burning sensation in the penis during urination, and later, drops of pus appearing at the head of the penis. Diagnosis is confirmed by a microscopic examination of a smear sample taken from the infected area for clinical analysis. Treatment consists of large doses of antibiotics.

Syphilis is identified in its first stage by the chancres, or painless sores that form in the infected area. After several weeks, these chancres will disappear and the disease will enter its second, or arrested, stage. This stage, when the disease will seemingly have gone away, will last for several or many years. Actually, the disease is spreading and acting on the inner systems of the body. It will appear again in its third and final stage after it has seriously attacked any weakened area of the body, causing blindness or mental impairment or crippling, and eventually death.

Diagnoses can be made from a Wasserman blood test. If the results are positive, a spinal tap may be required, which will definitely confirm evidence of the disease.

Treatment again is with antibiotics. However, a yearly check-up is recommended for anyone who has ever contracted these diseases as one is more susceptible to reinfection.

Dr. Bob recommended treatment by any General Hospital Dispensary as these are equipped to handle such cases. This also will avoid the embarrassment which might arise from treatment by a personal physician; and both specialists and general practitioners are likely to refer the patient to these facilities anyway.

Most facilities will make a very discreet investigation of the history of the case. Dr. Bob emphasized that these inquiries are strictly confidential and very much in the interest of public and personal health. One's name is never mentioned. And in view of the possible consequences, it is somewhat more than a favor to be truthful with the names of one's contacts.

Asked about prevalence, Dr. Bob replied that Turkish Baths are particularly dangerous for disease. Cleanliness and caution are urged in these places. He also remarked that V. D. is somewhat of a problem among teenagers in the Lehigh Valley, and recommended that a separate clinic be set up to handle V. D. cases.

Dr. Bob next turned to alcoholism, naming it as both an emotional and physical illness, and defining it as the compulsive need to drink. He stated that the incidence of alcoholism is high among homosexuals. This he attributed to our seeking companionship in bars and the loneliness of many homosexuals, noting that often homosexuals rationalize their alcoholism as social drinking. He also noted that many people will show homosexual tendencies only under the influence of alcohol.

He thought that alcoholism most often begins as an emotional problem,

gradually becoming physically compulsive to the point of the confirmed alcoholic who will drink anything to satisfy his need. He also stated that those who must have even a single drink a day, and those who, though they do not drink for weeks or even months, cannot stop once they begin, are also alcoholics. Every body is unique in its functioning accounts for the variety. Some people, he noted, may inherit a propensity toward alcoholism, particularly when the problem has been parental.

Dr. Bob indicated this as an area in which our society could be of real service. Unfortunately, he did not elaborate on this at the time.

The third and final problem discussed was aging, a problem for anyone, frequently more severe for the homosexual without family ties. Here, again, Dr. Bob indicated that the society could render valuable service with visitations, cards, and remembrances for disabled persons, those in various institutions, even those hospitalized for short terms. He noted the interdependence of physical and emotional well-being, that even the slightest sign of someone caring is a good reason for recovery and happiness.

In passing, he noted that some work might be done among hustlers, who are, as frequently as not, high school drop-outs or otherwise disturbed individuals.

CONTRIBUTIONS

IT'S A GAY WORLD

by Alan Ravert

Tune: Walt Disney's "It's a Small World"

Chorus:

It's a gay world after all,
It's a gay world after all,
It's a gay world after all,
It's a gay, gay world.

If you're bored with life,
and you're tired today,
Then I highly recommend going gay.
For as sure as you go,
You'll meet someone you know.
It's a gay world after all.

Chorus

It's a world of passion,
a world of lust,
So come on and join
in the fun with us.
Snap out of your dreams
All you closet queens,
It's a gay world after all.

Chorus

Some like it oral,
some like it brown-
And remember,
even the sun goes down

If you try it once,
you'll try it again.
It's a world made just for men.

Chorus.

A GIGGLE OR TWO

Have you heard of the book just out? Greek to Greek, by Ben Dover.
(contributed)

Two sailors are in the library. One asks the other, "Which do you like best, Browning or Kipling."

"I couldn't say," replied his friend, "I've never been kippled."

NOTES cont'd

Persons needing a ride to the meeting, or directions, please contact the director, Ron Seeds. Rides will be arranged with someone coming from your area.

The heading used on the first page was the suggestion of the director, with a few changes and mistakes by the editor. Any more suggestions?

The possibility of meeting at the Unitarian Church has to go before their board. This cannot be done until late October. We will need a meeting place in October. Any offers or suggestions.